SD11
A5A31
5

Research Note #5 March 6, 1934

U. S. FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
Berkeley, California

LIBRARY
JUN 24 1968
ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATION

AZIMUTH CIRCLE PRINTER

One difficulty confronted in preparing maps for use in fire dispatching has been the preparation of the azimuth circles for the large number of lookouts represented. The best results were obtained with azimuth circles printed on the map by a lithographing process. This practice is time consuming and expensive. The use of transparent overlays has been criticized because of the tendency to distort the map, and for the amount of time consumed in mounting.

At the suggestion of Supervisor Gowen of the Lassen National Forest, the California Forest Experiment Station undertook to develop a device which would print the circles quickly and accurately. After some experiment a simple device was constructed which produces results of the quality indicated by the enclosed sample.

The device consists of a square flat metal base, the center of which has been removed. At either end of the base are orientation markers. The printing plate is suspended in a frame from the four corners of the base. The plate frame is ordinarily suspended above the surface of the plate by the action of springs at the suspension points. The frame holding the printing plate has a handle in the center, and suspended from this handle a sliding pointer to permit accurate centering of the circle. When the instrument has been oriented in position an even pressure applied to the handle forces the plate to the map surface and gives the impression.

The device comes in a small wooden box which also serves as holder when the ink is being applied to the plate. A roller to apply ink to the plate is an essential part of the outfit.

The best results are obtained by experienced operators. The technique of using the instrument has been worked out and instructions are available. The design of the device can also be obtained through the Station. This Station will arrange for the purchase of these printers for any cooperating agency at a price of approximately $20.00.

Supervisors of National Forests in Region 5 may obtain the loan of a printer through application to Fire Control, Regional Office.

JOHN R. CURRY
Associate Silviculturist